

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

COUNTRY	Germany (Berlin)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Preparations for Insulation of Berlin	DATE DISTR.	15 April 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	2 25X1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
	This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

BY CABLE

25X1

1. The staff of the East German border police has been instructed to prepare a blueprint for the creation of a no-man's-land in a ring 10-20 kilometers wide around Berlin.¹
2. The border police has been brought up to full strength, and additional arms have been made available, in some cases in excess of the established T/E. The border-police commandos have been brought up to full company strength. The units around Berlin are fully prepared for action; additional manpower was provided from units in Saxony. The SfS is now conducting a security check on all non-commissioned officers in the border police. It is rumored that the regular police will assume responsibility for commodity controls, leaving the border police free for military duty if necessary.²
3. Plans are being completed for routing zonal rail traffic around Berlin. The completion of the outer ring is being pushed vigorously, with 1 May 1955 as the deadline. Emphasis is being placed on completing branch connections at Hennigsdorf and Birkenwerder. Instructions for this work came from the international division (sic) of the Ministry of Railroads.³
4. Plans are being drawn for cutting those land communication lines of the Russian zone which run through Berlin. To make this possible, new installations are being built with all possible speed, with emphasis on the Verstärkerwerk Michendorf, the Verstärkeramt and BASA Wustermark, and BASA-Ost. Several cables have already been cut during the last few days, in accordance with instructions from the international division of the Ministry of Railroads.⁴
5. At a conference in the Ministry of Railroads, a Soviet official emphasized the urgency of these projects and the need for secrecy. The RED Berlin and the Ministry of Railroads are taking special security precautions regarding visitors, who must now be registered in a visitor list and be accompanied to and from the office being visited.

S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	#	X	ARMY	#	X	NAVY	X	AIR	#	X	FBI		AEC						
-------	---	---	------	---	---	------	---	-----	---	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

S-E-C-R-E-T

- 2 -

25X1

25X1

Comments:

1. [redacted] the restricted zone will run through Mahlow, Mahlsdorf, and Falkensee. Control posts would be established on both sides of the zone. If possible, the Autobahn south and east of Berlin would be included in the zone. People living outside of the zone would not be permitted to work in Berlin. 25X1
2. The strength of the border police has been slightly increased since December 1954. The increased strength of the units around Berlin is not confirmed, but is considered probable. It was reported in January 1955 that the border police and the KVP were to receive new Soviet-type carbines.
3. Completion of the railroad ring around Berlin had been scheduled for 1954, but little progress had been made; it is an important project in the 1955 construction programme. If other important projects were postponed, it is possible that a skeleton ring around Berlin could be in operation by 1 May, but it is doubtful that the connecting curves, necessary double-tracking and repairs, etc., could be completed.
4. Previous reports had indicated that plans for completion of the cable ring around Berlin were of a longer-range nature, but work on this project has been speeded up. [redacted] 25X1
5. [redacted] At a minimum, these preparations are almost certainly designed to threaten and harass Berlin and the Western position there in order to strengthen the hand of Soviet diplomats in any negotiations on the German question. At a maximum, the preparations point to a possible intention to "insulate" the whole of Berlin from the surrounding eastern zone. (This does not exclude the possibility of further controls over intercourse between East and West Berlin.) By "insulation" is meant the extension of Communist control of movement, communications, transport, trade, utilities, etc., in the Berlin area, but not including a blockade against Western access to the city by ground and air. A blockade of the Allies in Berlin continues to be very unlikely in the absence of greater military preparations than have been evident. The presence of the East German government in Berlin is a consideration operating against actual moves for the full insulation of Berlin. However, threats to insulate Berlin (with some moves in addition to the increase in tolls to give weight to the threat) might be designed to advance future Soviet proposals for placing Berlin under "international" control. In turn, such proposals could be associated with possible future Soviet proposals for German reunification and neutralization and the withdrawal of occupation forces, while a position was retained in Berlin from which such neutrality could be observed and controlled. 25X1

25X1

SECRET